



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Martin SOMMER et al.

Serial No.: 09/780,618

Filed: February 12, 2001

For: MOLDED ELEMENT THAT CONSISTS OF BRITTLE-FRACTURE MATERIAL

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Examiner: CHEVALIER, Alicia Ann

Group Art Unit: 1772

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 29, 2002, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A molded element that comprises brittle-fracture material with at least one opening that is hermetically sealed by a sealing element, wherein the molded element and the sealing element are permanently bonded together by means of connecting pressure welds.

2. (Amended) A molded element according to claim 1, wherein the molded element is glass, glass ceramic or ceramic.

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